

and Thomas Jefferson won permanent residence for Congress on the Potomac in exchange for the Federal Government's assumption of State debts from the Revolution—a priority of Alexander Hamilton. What followed was the Residence Act, which established what we now know as the District of Columbia.

What is less understood is the capital's journey through eight other towns, the abandoned proposals and the near-misses before Congress settled here on the Potomac. During the Revolutionary War, Congress moved frequently to avoid British troops—meeting famously in Philadelphia then in Baltimore, York, and Lancaster. Upon ratification of the Articles of Confederation, Congress returned to Independence Hall only to be removed abruptly in the summer of 1783.

That June, approximately 500 mutinous Pennsylvania militiamen demanding back pay from their service during the Revolution, encircled Independence Hall and refused to let Members of Congress leave the building unless their demands were met. Uncertain of their safety and the integrity of Congress, the delegates fled across the Delaware to Princeton, New Jersey.

In Princeton, Congress redoubled its efforts to select a permanent seat of government. To settle regional animosity, Congress agreed on two permanent capitals on the Delaware and Potomac, while designating Annapolis and Trenton as interim capitals.

On November 1, 1784, Congress convened in Trenton. Travel-weary legislators reluctantly trickled into Trenton—then a town of roughly 500 people—and it began official business at the French Arms Tavern on the corner of Warren and State Streets.

When Congress finally reached a quorum on November 29 it considered matters of foreign affairs and finance, appointing ministers to Britain and France and selecting commissioners to the Board of Treasury.

The highlight of Trenton's time as the capital was a visit by the Marquis de Lafayette. During his visit he petitioned Congress to take official leave to France and addressed a joint session of the New Jersey State Legislature. In honor of Lafayette, one of George Washington's most trusted generals, Congress drafted a letter to the King of France praising Lafayette's service and passed a resolution commending Lafayette for his bravery during the siege of Yorktown.

As the session concluded before Christmas, Congress scrapped the plan for two capitals and took up a resolution to establish a permanent capital in Trenton. Unfortunately for Trenton, debate stalled, and on Christmas Eve Congress agreed to meet in New York City after the New Year.

The rest as they say is history. The bustling, city life of New York was more appealing to Members of Congress than the calm of small-town Trenton. They quickly forgot their plans and continued to meet in New York until 1790.

Still, Congress's brief visit to Trenton offers a fascinating glimpse into the early history of the United States and should remind us that the remarkable Capitol building in which we conduct the people's business should not be taken for granted.

I commend the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, the Trenton Historical Society, and the other organizations that make up Trenton 1784—The Na-

tion's Capital Committee, for their excellent work, schedule event and lectures and preparing exhibits and online resources to bring to life this fascinating yet fleeting moment in American history. Trenton was then and is today a town with great appeal.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK W. HENNING'S OUTSTANDING CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer the following statement, in recognition of Patrick W. Henning upon his retirement, on behalf of myself and the following members of the California congressional delegation: Representatives PETE STARK, HOWARD BERMAN, SAM FARR, LYNN WOOLSEY, ZOE LOFGREN, ANNA ESHOO, HENRY WAXMAN, DORIS MATSUI, JERRY MCNERNEY, JIM COSTA, BARBARA LEE, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LAURA RICHARDSON, BRAD SHERMAN, MIKE HONDA, LINDA SANCHEZ, JOE BACA, and other colleagues.

We rise in honor of Patrick Henning, upon his retirement from public service as the director of California's Employment Development Department, EDD. With nearly 40 years of experience in the field of labor, Mr. Henning brought to his office a deep and unmatched commitment to strengthening California's workforce.

Throughout his career, Mr. Henning has worked to improve the lives of California's workers—from his early days as a union organizer to his appointment to one of the state's largest Departments.

Prior to joining the Employment Development Department, Mr. Henning served the California Legislature for 17 years as a key labor policy consultant—first in the Assembly, and then in the Senate's Labor and Industrial Relations Committee headed by now-Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. In the early 1980s, Mr. Henning served as California Labor Commissioner, and later as a member of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. As a union representative in Southern California in the 1970s, Mr. Henning helped hundreds of workers bargain for improved wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Other major achievements include his tenure as chair of the state Developmental Disabilities Area Board for Los Angeles County. He also served several years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Without a doubt, California's working families have benefited from Mr. Henning's lifelong contributions to the labor field. We would like to thank Mr. Henning for everything he has achieved for California's workers, and we give him our very warmest wishes for many happy years of retirement.

HONORING BALBINA "BARBIE" HERNANDEZ

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, on December 11, 2009, San Antonio lost a great public servant when Balbina "Barbie" Hernandez passed away at the age of 62. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Barbie Hernandez as we celebrate her life, which was highlighted by decades of community service, philanthropy, and leadership.

Balbina Hernandez was born on November 2 and was named after her paternal grandmother. She was nicknamed "Barbie" in high school and was by known by this name the rest of her life.

She was an active member of her community, serving countless organizations and served the City of San Antonio for 18 years, which included being part of then Mayor Henry Cisneros' administration. As a single parent, Barbie passionately worked to be a role model for young women and boldly carried a red purse to remind people of the disparity in pay between men and women. Also, as a proud Vok, Barbie was dedicated to Lanier High School and worked to make a difference for the students attending her alma mater.

After working tirelessly to earn her bachelor's degree from the University of the Incarnate Word she set out to work for the Mexican American & Hispanic Physicians Association, MAHPA, as Executive Director. At MAHPA, Barbie took great joy in working to make college and medical school a reality for so many kids.

The City of San Antonio and the State of Texas feel a little emptier now, but we have all lived richer, better lives because of the life of Balbina "Barbie" Hernandez. Her life may have ended, but her contributions will live on and generations shall enjoy the fruits of her labor.

STOP ANY TARP EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have co-sponsored the Stop Any TARP Extension Act of 2009. The position of the Treasury Department—that it is free to reuse any repaid TARP funds—is entirely contrary to the law. Due to the Department's unwillingness to adhere to the statutory language of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, it is necessary to terminate that Act.

My office has inquired with the Treasury Department as to whether it possesses any legal opinion justifying the recycling of funds repaid by the banks. It should be noted that the Department has hundreds of lawyers and rarely does anything without a legal opinion, certainly not anything involving hundreds of billions of dollars. The Treasury Department refused to provide any legal opinion to Congress, implying that this is a case where he cannot find even one Department lawyer to reach the conclusion the Department would prefer.